

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/720,523
FILED: November 25, 2003
Page 2

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been rejected.

1. (Previously Presented) In a pipe sealing clamp or coupling for removably holding extremities of a pair of metallic pipes in axial sealing relationship by means of a metal clamping band to surround said pipes and a flexible inner sleeve disposed inside said clamping band; the improvement being the attachment of said inner sleeve to said clamping band by means of at least two metallic fasteners that penetrate said flexible inner sleeve, said metallic fasteners being arranged to contact said metallic pipes when said assembly is tightened, to form a continuous electrical connection of the pipes via the body of said clamp.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Bemis. In particular, the Examiner has pointed to Bemis, Fig. 2, element b3 as analogous to the rivets in the present application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bemis discloses a device for coupling together sections of pneumatic tubes "by coupling devices . . . which are easily and quickly removable . . ." (col. 1, lines 12-14). In

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/720,523
FILED: November 25, 2003
Page 3

order for the sections to be removable, they are not riveted to each other. Rather, the clamp is riveted to only one pipe, and the other pipe is clamped. This is clear from Fig. 2, which is "an end elevation of one of my coupling-sleeves with the parts assembled before being clamped to the tube." (Bemis, col. 1 lines 34-35). Figure 2 shows both of rivets b3 being attached to one coupling sleeve. Therefore, rivets b3 do not form an electrical connection between the connected sleeves, as recited in claim 1. In particular, the rivets b3 of Bemis cannot be considered "at least two metallic fasteners that penetrate said flexible inner sleeve, said metallic fasteners being arranged to contact said metallic pipes when said assembly is tightened, to form a continuous electrical connection of the pipes via the body of said clamp." It will be noticed that the fasteners of the present claim serve the function of contacting said metallic pipes, not one pipe, as in Bemis.

Nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in light of Bemis to modify the device disclosed therein to arrive at the claimed apparatus of pending claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3, are not anticipated by Bemis, and are deemed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over Bemis in view of Newell.

As pointed out above, Bemis fails to disclose or render obvious "at least two metallic fasteners that penetrate said flexible inner sleeve, said metallic fasteners being arranged to contact said metallic pipes when said assembly is tightened, to form a continuous electrical connection of the pipes via the body of said clamp." Newell does not disclose or otherwise render obvious this element of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

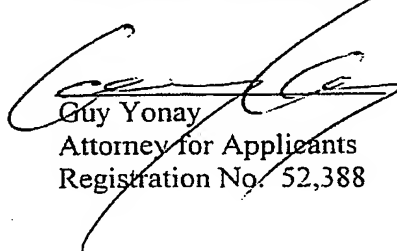
Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/720,523
FILED: November 25, 2003
Page 4

prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,



Guy Yonay
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,388

Dated: May 23, 2005

Eitan, Pearl, Latzer & Cohen Zedek, LLP.
10 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 1001
New York, New York 10020
Tel: (212) 632-3480
Fax: (212) 632-3489